

Jon Dorn
Communication and Film/Media Program
Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Ave
Warwick, RI 02886

House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

In my first three years as a professor at CCRI, the Rhode Island Promise program has stood out as an indispensable opportunity for Rhode Island students who wish to further their education but may have thought it was not possible. And now with the pandemic and resulting economic downturn, it is even more important that students and their families have an achievable path to higher education.

As I have seen firsthand in my program, Communication and Film/Media, the RI Promise Program lays a foundation for success in professions that are ideally entered with a four-year degree: journalism, media production, business and marketing. While four-year institutions offer valuable experiences and access to resources, RI Promise gives students the opportunity to complete the first two years of their degree without the burden of tuition – a barrier that can discourage students from pursuing a degree altogether.

My students in the RI Promise program have expressed immense gratitude for the opportunity to complete their first two years of higher education free of charge at CCRI. I sincerely believe that students who otherwise would not have pursued a college education are able to achieve this goal because of the opportunity presented by the RI Promise Program.

This program has made a college education accessible to thousands of Rhode Islanders, and I hope it will serve as an example nationwide, including in my home state of Massachusetts. I urge you to continue funding the program, giving thousands more Rhode Islanders an incredible opportunity.

Sincerely,

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